

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of remote media program recording via a computer network comprising:

providing a plurality of media programs;

5 receiving from a client via the computer network, a request to deliver a specified media program to the client, the request specifying a format for delivery;

selecting and storing in digital format the media program specified by the client; and

10 sending to the client, via the computer network, a message identifying a computer network address from which the stored media program can be accessed.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1 comprising receiving from the client via the computer network a  
15 request for access to the stored media program.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1 comprising transmitting the stored media program to the client via the computer network in the format specified during request receiving.

20 4. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the digital format for storing the specified media program is a format compatible with the format specified during request receiving.

25 5. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the specified format is a streaming video format.

6. A method in accordance with claim 5 wherein a plurality of streaming video formats are provided and the computer network address sent to the client identifies a

server capable of providing streaming video in the format requested by the client.

7. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the media program is of predetermined time duration and the message sent to the client is sent after the time duration of the media program has passed.

8. A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein the program transmitting occurs while the selecting and storing is occurring.

9. A method in accordance with claim 8 wherein the message identifying a computer network address is sent to the client at substantially the same time that the selecting and storing begins so that the media program can be delivered to the client substantially in real time.

10. A remote media program recording and replay system for use over a computer network comprising:  
a plurality of media program signals each representing a media program;  
a plurality of media delivery devices, each media delivery device for providing stored media programming in a predetermined format over the computer network;  
a server for receiving via the computer network a recording request from a client, the recording request specifying a media program and a delivery format in which the client desires to receive the media program;  
selecting and converting apparatus for selecting the specified media program from the plurality of media program signals and for converting the selected media program into a digital format;

storage apparatus for storing the selected media program in the digital format provided by the selecting and converting apparatus;

5 notifying apparatus responsive to the completion of storage of the specified media program by the storage apparatus for notifying the client of a computer network address specifying one of the media delivery devices and a data file of the storage apparatus storing the specified media program; and

10 the media delivery device, being responsive to a delivery request from the client received via the computer network for transmitting the stored media program to the client via the computer network.

11. A media program recording and replay system in accordance with claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of media program signals represents a time based broadcast signal and the recording and replay system comprises:

15 a scheduler which is responsive to a recording request and broadcast time information for selecting a specified media program.

12. A media program recording and replay system in accordance with claim 10 wherein the media program requested by the client is a television broadcast of a sporting event.

13. A media program recording and replay system in accordance with claim 10 wherein the media program requested by the client is a motion picture.

14. A media program recording and replay system in accordance with claim 11 wherein the system prepares for

delivery to a client only media programs or portions of media programs broadcast after the receipt by the web server of the request from a client.

15        15. A media program recording and replay system in accordance with claim 10 wherein the storage apparatus stores the media program in an uncompressed digital format.

10        16. A media recording and replay system in accordance with claim 10 wherein at least one of the media delivery devices delivers media programs in a streaming video format.

17. A media recording and replay system in accordance with claim 16 wherein the streaming video format is real media.

15        18. A media recording and replay system in accordance with claim 16 wherein the streaming video format is net show video.

20        19. A remote media program delivery system for use over an internet comprising:  
a plurality of time scheduled media program signals each representing a media program;

a plurality of internet media delivery devices, each media delivery device for transmitting media programming in a predetermined format over the internet;

25        a server for receiving via the internet a media program request from a client, the media program request specifying a media program and a digital delivery format in which the client desires to receive the media program;

selecting and converting apparatus for selecting the specified media program from the plurality of time scheduled media program signals and for converting the selected media program into a digital format;

5 storage apparatus for storing in a data file at least a portion of the selected media program in the digital format specified by the client to the server;

notifying apparatus for notifying the client of an internet address specifying one of the internet media delivery devices and a data file of the storage apparatus  
10 storing at least a portion of the specified media program; and

the media delivery device, being responsive to a delivery request from the client received via the  
15 internet for transmitting the media program from the storage apparatus to the client via the internet.

20. A media program delivery system in accordance with claim 19 wherein at least one of the plurality of media program signals represents a time based broadcast  
20 signal and the media program selecting system comprises:

a scheduler which is responsive to a media program request and scheduled broadcast time information for selecting a specified media program.

21. A media program delivery system in accordance  
25 with claim 19 wherein at least one of the media delivery devices delivers media programs in a streaming video format.

22. A media program delivery system in accordance with claim 21 wherein the streaming video format is real  
30 media.

23. A media program delivery system in accordance with claim 21 wherein the streaming video format is net show video.

24. A media program delivery system in accordance  
5 with claim 19 wherein the specified media program is a television broadcast of a sporting event.

25. A media program delivery system in accordance with claim 19 wherein the specified media program is a motion picture.

10 26. A media server comprising:  
a plurality of media program signals each representing a media program;  
a plurality of media delivery devices, each media delivery device for providing stored media programming in  
15 a predetermined format over a computer network;  
a request apparatus for receiving via a computer network, a storage request from a client, the storage request specifying a media program and a delivery format in which the client desires to receive the media program;  
20 apparatus for selecting the specified media program from the plurality of media program signals and for storing the selected media program in a digital format compatible with the specified delivery format; and  
notifying apparatus for notifying the client of a  
25 computer network address identifying the stored media program.

27. A media server in accordance with claim 26 comprising a media delivery device responsive to a delivery request from the client received via the

computer network for transmitting the stored media program to the client via the computer network.

28. A media server in accordance with claim 26 wherein at least one of the plurality of media program  
5 signals represents a time based broadcast signal and the media server comprises:

a scheduler which is responsive to a storage request and broadcast time information for selecting a specified media program.

10 29. A media server in accordance with claim 28 wherein the media server prepares for delivery to a client only media programs or portions of media programs broadcast after the receipt by the server of the request from a client.

15 30. A media program storage system comprising:  
a plurality of media program receivers, each including access to a plurality of media program signals, at least one media program signal being accessible at less than all of the plurality of media program  
20 receivers;

request serving apparatus responsive to a storage request from a client for storage of a media program signal identified by the client for sending the request for storage to a media program receiver having access to  
25 the media program requested; and

storage apparatus at the media program receiver receiving the storage request sent from the request apparatus for storing the requested multimedia program.

31. A media program storage system in accordance  
30 with claim 30 wherein the request serving apparatus

stores accessibility data representing the accessibility of media program signals at the media program receiver.

32. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 31 wherein the request server analyzes the  
5 accessibility data to identify a media program receiver having access to the media program requested.

33. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 30 wherein the media program receiving arrangement receiving the storage request notifies the  
10 client originating the request that the requested storage has occurred.

34. A media program storage system in accordance with claim 33 wherein the media program receiving arrangement receiving the storage request receives a  
15 request from the client for delivery of the stored media program and delivers the stored media program to the client in streaming video format over the computer network.